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25X1X6

26 August

The Nationalist Northeast Command Headquarters believes that the Communists cannot start a new offensive before mid-September because of heavy rains in Manchuria. The Nationalist Northeast Command Headquarters believes this will be a small-scale attack as the Communists have not recovered from losses suffered in June and are still replacing and training troops. They believe the major offensive will be in November and December as the Communists are more accustomed to the severe climate.

25X1X6

10 September

25X1X6

2. This observer's opinion is that the movement of the Communist 2 Column appears to be a forerunner of an attack on Kirin. By taking Kirin the Communists would control the railroad from Kirin to Mathokou, enabling them to supply their troops directly from Methokou to Hsian (125-09, 42-54) and surrounding areas. If an attack comes the Communists would probably use the following troops: the 6 Column, Independent 1, 3, 4, 5, and 6 Divisions, 24 and 25 Brigades, New 6 Division and the 1 Garrison Brigade. Total strength would approximate 50,000.

The Communist 2 Column at Imaite could prevent Nationalist troops in Changchun from moving to assist the Nationalists in Kirin by their presence in the area and if necessary could make harassing attacks on Changchun.

The Communist 1, 3, and 4 Columns control the area roughly extending from Meihokou to Hsian to Nankouchien (124-35, 42-00) which would prevent the Nationalists from the Mukden-Kaiyuan-Ssupingchieh sector from moving northeast to reinforce Kirin. Since the Nationalists have their main strength marshalled for a Communist attack on Ssupingchieh or for a push west by the 1 and 3 Columns, Kirin appears to be the ideal target.

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This document is hereby regraded to CONFIDENTIAL in accordance with the letter of 16 October 1978 from the

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